

required to be offered under the same rules as set forth in Title III below. Such plans would therefore have different benefits than traditional MediGap plans.

III. MEDIGAP PROVISIONS

A. All MediGap policies would be required to be community rated.

B. MediGap plans would be required to participate in coordinated open enrollment.

C. The loss ratio requirement for all plans would be increased to 85 percent.

IV. COORDINATED OPEN ENROLLMENT

A. The Secretary would conduct an annual open enrollment period during which Medicare beneficiaries could enroll in any MediGap plan, Medicare Select, or an HMO contracting with Medicare.

1. Each MediGap plan, Medicare Select plan, and HMO contractor would be required to participate in the open enrollment system.

2. The Secretary would make available to beneficiaries information on MediGap and Medicare-contracting HMO plans.

B. Generally, except for cause, an enrollee could enroll, disenroll, or switch plans only during the annual open enrollment period, with the following exceptions:

During the first year of enrollment with a limited access plan (including HMOs and Medicare Select) the beneficiary could disenroll at the end of any calendar quarter and return to fee-for-service. During the second year, disenrollment could only occur mid-year at the end of the second calendar quarter. After the first two years, disenrollment could only occur during the open enrollment period;

There would be an exception for HMOs which the Secretary determines has reached capacity;

There would be an exception to individuals newly eligible for Medicare or who are new residents of the service area of a plan who could enroll on an open enrollment basis during the sixty-day period that begins thirty days before they become eligible or before they become a resident of the service area.

COMPREHENSIVE FETAL ALCOHOL SYNDROME PREVENTION ACT

HON. BILL RICHARDSON

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 24, 1995

Mr. RICHARDSON. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to introduce the Comprehensive Fetal Alcohol Syndrome Prevention Act. Fetal Alcohol Syndrome [FAS] is the leading cause of mental retardation in the United States and is one of the most common birth defects to occur in our country. Diagnosis is rare prior to birth and there is no cure for FAS or Fetal Alcohol Effects [FAE], its less severe counterpart.

This disease is completely preventable, by simply avoiding alcohol during pregnancy, but the number of affected children is rising sharply. Recent studies indicate that the percentage of babies stricken by FAS has increased sixfold in the last 15 years.

The statistics are appalling: the disease affects 1 in 250 live births; 5,000 infants are born each year with the recognizable facial, physical and mental abnormalities caused by FAS; 50,000 babies are born annually with FAE, and suffer from learning disabilities, central nervous system damage, and physical disorders.

Not only are the emotional impacts of these diseases devastating, the costs associated

with treatment are very high: health care costs for one child stricken with FAS total \$44,000.

FAS and FAE strike without regard to race or economic status, but the rate of incidence is higher among certain groups; for instance, the rate is 30 times higher among Native Americans. This disease threatens to destroy whole generations on some reservations if stronger federal action is not initiated.

Surprisingly, much of the public is still unaware of the dangers of drinking during pregnancy. The medical community does not uniformly caution against alcohol consumption for pregnant women, and most medical schools do not provide curriculum on FAS prevention and detection.

This bill seeks to address each of these issues comprehensively. It requires the Department of Health and Human Services to close the gaps in our current efforts to prevent FAS and FAE by establishing a coordinating committee to streamline program development and eliminate duplicative research programs. The committee will develop professional practice standards and curriculum for health care providers, and will initiate a national public awareness program to outline the dangers of alcohol consumption during pregnancy. Finally, additional research will be conducted to aid detection and a cure for FAS so that future generations will not suffer from this debilitating disease.

This bill, as evidence by our bipartisan list of cosponsors, deserves the support of all Members, and I look forward to working toward its passage.

VIRGINIA R. SAUNDERS, 50 YEARS OF FEDERAL SERVICE

HON. STENY H. HOYER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 24, 1995

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Ms. Virginia Saunders, congressional document specialist at the Government Printing Office, for reaching 50 years of dedicated and enthusiastic Federal service on Friday, May 26, 1995.

Ms. Saunders was born Virginia R. Frisbie in Darlington, MD, on October 11, 1926. After working briefly at the Federal Bureau of Investigation, she came to the Government Printing Office on February 4, 1946, as a war service junior clerk typist in the division of public documents, stock section. Two years later, she was promoted to the division of public documents reference section. In February 1951, Ms. Saunders was promoted to indexing clerk and earned subsequent promotions in the same classification. In July 1958, she was promoted to library technician. Becoming a congressional documents specialist in April 1970, she was then promoted to supervisor of the congressional documents section in July 1974. In October 1983, Ms. Saunders assumed her current position of congressional documents specialist in the congressional printing management division, customer services.

Although one may not yet recognize the name of this outstanding GPO employee, the end product of her dedicated efforts is certainly familiar. Ms. Saunders has primary responsibility for the Congressional Serial Set, which is a compilation of all the House and

Senate documents and reports issued for each session of Congress. Dummy volumes establishing the format for each edition are prepared and assigned a serial number following each session of Congress. The actual books are produced by GPO's binding division, often as many as 100 volumes per set for each session of Congress. As a chronicle of events of the U.S. Congress over the years, the Congressional Serial Set is rivaled only by the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD. While the Serial Set records behind-the-scenes legislative activities for the United States, the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD reflects the "in session" proceedings. Distributed to the House and Senate libraries, the Archives, the Library of Congress, and depository libraries, the Congressional Serial Set joins the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD in offering students and historians a rich insight into the American system of government.

In late 1989, Ms. Saunders drew upon her in-depth knowledge of depository library program responsibilities in informing the Nation, and her then-43 years of GPO experience, to submit an employee suggestion regarding the appendix to the Iran Contra Report to Congress. She suggested that this 40-volume publication, which was printed as both a Senate and House report, be bound only once for the serial set volumes of House and Senate reports that are sent to depository libraries. She further suggested that the Schedule of Volumes, which is a listing of the bound volumes, contain a notation explaining the mission serial number volumes. The implementation of this suggestion resulted in a reduction of 13,740 book volumes to be bound, saving the Federal Government over \$600,000. In recognition of these efforts, she received GPO's top monetary Suggestion Award for that year. In ceremonies held on January 9, 1991, Ms. Saunders was awarded a Presidential letter of commendation under the Presidential Quality and Management Improvement Award Program. In his letter to Ms. Saunders, President Bush noted, "You have demonstrated to an exceptional degree my belief that Federal employees have the knowledge, ability, and desire to make a difference."

I know my colleagues and Ms. Saunders' family, friends, and coworkers join me in congratulating her on 50 years of exemplary Federal service.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE SHELTER ISLAND HEIGHTS POST OFFICE

HON. MICHAEL P. FORBES

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 24, 1995

Mr. FORBES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to praise the exceptional service provided by the Shelter Island Heights Post Office. For the past 115 years, the Shelter Island Heights Post Office has served the community with extreme dedication. I would also like to commend the Shelter Island ferry service which has provided the vital link between the mainland and Shelter Island. This ferry service has been at the heart of the Postal Service for the Shelter Island Heights community. With the help of this ferry service, the Shelter Island Post Office has been able to deliver over 1.5